

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) Oil extracted from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, useful as anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, vasculodilatory and wound healing agent, said oil comprising essentially of:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Capric acid | 0.7-1.2% by wt. |
| Lauric acid | 0.6-1% by wt. |
| Palmitic acid | 4.2-5.0% by wt. |
| Stearic acid | 59-62% by wt. |
| Oleic acid | 13-15% by wt. |
| Archidic acid | 3-5% by wt. |
| Linoleic acid | 8-10% by wt. |
| Other undetected minor acids | 6-8% by wt. |

2. (currently amended) Oil as claimed in claim 1, comprising wherein the preferred range of the ingredients of the oil is as under:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Capric acid | 0.9% by wt. |
| Lauric acid | 0.8% by wt. |
| Palmitic acid | 4.2% by wt. |
| Stearic acid | 60.90% by wt. |
| Oleic acid | 13.30% by wt. |
| Archidic acid | 3.20% by wt. |
| Linoleic acid | 9.80% by wt. |
| Other undetected minor acids | 6.90% by wt. |

3. (withdrawn-currently amended) A novel oil composition comprising:

oil extracted from the seeds of 70 to 80% by wt.
Momordica charantia L. according to
claim 1,

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| one or more vegetable oils, | 15 to 25% by wt. |
| fragrance oil | 3% by wt. |
| essential oil | 1% by wt. |
| and at least one perfume component | 2% by wt. |

4. (withdrawn) The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the vegetable oil is selected from the group consisting of: sesame oil, coconut oil, groundnut oil, olive oil, palm oil and other foodgrade oil.

5. (withdrawn) The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the essential oil is selected from the group consisting of: rose oil, sandalwood oil, geranium oil and lavender oil.

6. (withdrawn) The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is in physical forms selected from the group consisting of: cream, gel, lotion, capsule and combinations thereof.

7. (withdrawn) The oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is prepared by mixing the oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L.* with suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

8. (withdrawn) A process for the extraction of oil from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, comprising the steps of :

- (i) grinding dry seeds to a fine powder in a suitable mill,
- (ii) treating the pulverized seeds with a mixture of non- polar solvents,

- (iii) allowing the mixture to stand for 48 hours at room temperature so that the oil separates out,
- (iv) collecting the oil from the supernatant layer using a separating funnel,
- (v) refluxing the mixture obtained in step (iv) with any non-polar solvent to remove the last traces of oil,
- (vi) purifying the oil by adding 2-5% zinc acetate dissolved in water to precipitate the salts with impurities from the oil, and
- (vii) analysis of the oil extracted by gas liquid chromatography.

9. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, are split, washed thoroughly with water 2-3 times to render the seeds substantially free from impurities and dried under vacuum before said grinding.

10. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the non-polar solvent comprises a mixture of acetone with an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, hexane, petroleum ether and ethyl ether.

11. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the ratio of the aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon in the non-polar solvent mixture is 2:1.

12. (withdrawn- currently amended) A method of treating a disease or condition in a patient body, comprising applying an oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L.*, or its composition as claimed in claim[[s]] 1 or 2[[to 7]], on an affected area of the patient body for a period of about six to twenty weeks, wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of: inflammation, arthritis, vasculodilation and wounds.